

Jig and Courier.

Wholesale & Retail Proprietors.
TUESDAY, JAN. 4, 1888.

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REMARKS OF MR. WATSON ON THE TREASURY NOTE BILL.—We copy the following from the proceedings of the U. S. House of Representatives, on Saturday, Dec. 19th.

The first section of the Treasury Note Bill was then read.

Mr. Banks.—I move to amend the first section of the bill, by adding to it the following proviso:

Provided, That the power to issue Treasury notes conferred on the President of the United States shall cease and determine on the 1st day of Jan., 1890.

Mr. Watson of Maine.—I think that the effect of the amendment made by the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Milson, to the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Banks, is somewhat broader by the consideration that he ignored entirely the terms of the amendment. By that amendment, as I understand it, it was to be left to the discretion of the President of the United States to say whether a loan should be substituted for the issue of Treasury notes. Is not the gentleman from Virginia willing to intrust that discretion to the President of his choice? The gentleman from Virginia assumed that any loan which might be authorized, or made under the authority of the Administration, would be a loan for a long period of time; whereas, by the amendment, the time was not fixed; and I understand it, no time was contemplated by the amendment. There was a blank left, which was to be filled up by the House hereafter, or discretion given to the Administration which, it seems to me, would remove entirely the objection of the gentleman from Virginia. Sir, in all times past, gentlemen of the school to which my friend from Virginia belongs have opposed this principle of issuing paper promises by the Government, or by any of the agents of the government. No political party in this country has been ready at all times to oppose any measure resembling in principle that now before the committee.

What is this change—this signal and marked change? Why is it that these men who have always heretofore opposed paper currency, paper money, and paper promises in any form and in all forms, are now in favor of it, and are unwilling to carry any alternative to the Administration that they have put in power? Why is it? There must be some reason, and perhaps some reason that cannot meet the eye. There would have been no necessity at all for the measure, had the Administration of the gentleman's choice in past times been as prudent and economical, and as far from all sections of the country as they should have been. We are now in a few years ago, when ten millions were voted by this House, and we were told that we had no right to inquire into the reasons of it, for the purchase of a little strip of land, a few miles wide, worth not \$10,000, as Colonel Benton told us; for the purpose of making, the only connection that some gentlemen think it is possible to make between the Atlantic and Pacific through the region of Arizona. May it not be that there are some other such operations in prospect—one out west in the ocean and others in the south-west—and that gentlemen do not want to be embarrassed by being told, when they come here with their petitions, for an appropriation for such purpose, that not only is the Treasury empty, but that the Government has been contracting loans, permanent loans it may be to go along with extraordinary expenditures.

I wish to know if there is anything of the nature of these reasons in this matter, or if not, what the reasons are that have produced this wonderful and marked change in the opinions of the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Milson, and of those who agree with him on this floor.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce now says:

"The Constitution has been adopted with the slavery article, which was what was predicted by Mr. Douglas and his friends, and given by the President. There will now be an issue between Douglas and the President. The latter must, of course, persist in his views, and the Southern members in their support of the Lecompton Constitution, while the former will contend against it to the last. Now that the question has been made, the South will be unyielding in regard to it. They will insist upon the acceptance of the Lecompton Constitution in the form in which it shall come. The Southern members say they cannot agree to any compromise on the subject, because they would, thereby, be placed to disadvantage before their constituents. They could not be less regarded of Southern rights and interests than the President. Regarding the Southern States, now ready and pledged to the Lecompton Constitution, if it came without slavery, as they insist that they will, the Southern members will go for it, bombing as usual, with slavery."

Nevertheless, we think the pro-slavery interest and the administration are fast obtaining a wholesome conviction that the people of Kansas will endure no further outrages—like they are determined to submit no longer to violence and fraud. The Administration will back down on the Lecompton Constitution, and the Southern members will be left with the reputation of having been the cause of the temperance democrats.

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It is not improbable that the attention of the Legislature will be called to the important subject of developing the resources of the great unsettled portion of the State in which the public lands are situated. We believe the people of all sections are satisfied that something should be done to open to a market the fertile settling lands in the Aroostook country—that our young men and that portion of our agricultural population, which is now dissipated, may have inducements to remain in the State, rather than continue to swell the tide of emigration which for some years has gone westwardly and prevented the natural advancement and increase in prosperity which Maine would otherwise have had. It is generally conceded that the State should do something to induce our people to settle at home, and also to attract immigration. [The most effectual measure to that end would undoubtedly be the building of a railroad to connect the Aroostook country with the markets for its produce.] If this were accomplished, a region as large as the State of Vermont, and capable of producing as largely as any of the bordering States of the West, would be thrown open for settlement. We trust the Legislature will take this subject into earnest consideration, and if any measure of aid to this important enterprise can be adopted, which will receive general concurrence, that some early and favorable action may be had. It is certainly for the interest of the whole State that these rich lands should be opened to a market, and thus furnish the means of increasing our population, and also of increasing the value of the public lands.

The question of a liquor law will be among the prominent matters for consideration. A Temperance Convention is to be held at Augusta on the 13th—the official call for which we publish. Whether it is determined upon in regard to this question, either by the Convention or the Legislature, should be the result of prudent and moderate counsel among temperance men of all parties. There can be no efficient action to raise or prevent the liquor traffic without a severe and hearty conference of this kind. There has been sufficient trial of a law agreed to by only one of the political parties. The attempt to enforce a liquor law which was utterly opposed by one of those parties has been found impracticable, and hence it was wisely determined to separate the question from party politics. The Republicans faithfully endeavored to sustain and enforce the law of 1865—but it having been made a party question, the entire opposition was arrayed against it, and the law was broken down. Whatever action is taken by the present Legislature, therefore, should have the concurrence of the temperance democrats.

The law may then be enforced, which is the great point to be attained. A moderate law enforced, is better than a stringent law disregarded.

Losses at Fire in the United States.—A tabular statement of the fire in the United States, where the value of the property destroyed exceeded \$20,000,000, in the New York Herald, shows that up to the 25th of December there had been 230 of these fires, and the aggregate loss was \$15,762,000. In 1856 there were 227 fires, aggregate loss \$25,102,000.

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